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How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.—King Lear.

Summer of Prosperity

Today marks an important stage in the revival of industrial activity in the Birmingham district. For weeks past there has been a gradual resumption of mining and manufacturing plants. Many of the industries hereabouts have been kept going right along, regardless of last October's panic and the business depression that followed. This has been especially the case in North Birmingham, where practically all the plants continued in operation. But several of the large concerns in the district had to shut down temporarily; and it is the resumption of idle stacks within the past few weeks that has given new impulse to business here.

The Tennessee company's rail mill at Ensley starts up today, and by reason of the commanding importance of that plant as a factor in the industrial life of the district the effect is exceptionally animating and far-reaching. In anticipation of the resumption of activity at Ensley buoyancy in business circles has been in evidence for a month past. And it will not be long now before payroll money in increased volume will be in circulation. With crop prospects good, with the iron market active and with thousands of wage-workers who had been on the waiting list again at work, Birmingham will have a summer of prosperity in spite of the fact that a presidential campaign confronts the country.

Ocean Shipping

The subsidy scheme was voted down in the long session, but it will undoubtedly reappear at the short session that meets just after the presidential election, when the members will not be playing politics at every turn. The short session should be one of independent action, keeping the public well strictly in view. If the subsidy plan has any chance of adoption it will be taken up next winter and possible shaped into law.

The tonnage of the world is immense, and very little of it is American. The ships of the world represent an aggregate of nearly 40,000,000 tons, and the average annual net addition is about 2,000,000 tons.

Just at present shipping is in a depressed condition because in all the maritime countries freights have fallen off. Comparatively few lines are making money. They are holding on, however, believing that the dull times will soon be ended, and that better business conditions will return. Fortunately, rates have been ended even on the Atlantic lines, and the owners of shipping are patiently waiting for a time when travel and freights will rise to the proportions of a year ago, or better still, two years ago. The 42,000 vessels on the high seas would then have all the work they could do, and perhaps they would not then seek so diligently subsidies.

"Let Us Alone"

This is the cry that goes up from each and every interest threatened with tariff revision. When Secretary Taft advocated reduced duties for Philippine products, the beet sugar trust threw up its hands in holy horror and cried out, "Let us Alone." In other words, the trusts at home want all the money that is going into their respective products. The Dingley scheme suits them and all they desire is to be "let alone."

Child labor and all similar reforms arouse the like cry from the trusts, "Let us Alone." Through the republican party they have got things adjusted to suit themselves. They are in position to exploit the people almost to the satisfaction of their avarice, and very naturally they say, "Let us Alone." No tariff beneficiary cares how a tariff duty that fills his own pocket affects the rest of the people in his own or any other country. And this is why any revision by republicans—by the so-called friends of pro-

tection—would be no revision at all. Each interest would fight to be let alone, and the sum total would be a roaring robber scheme worse probably in some respects than the Dingley tariff which has been pretty accurately defined as the sum of all villainies.

Increase in Freight Rates

The railroads in the north lying east of the Mississippi river announced that their rates would be advanced to an extent equal to 10 per cent. The manufacturers at once organized to resist the proposed advance, and a legal battle between the manufacturers and the railroads would certainly have taken place. The case would practically have been entitled "The Shippers versus The Carriers," and no legal stone would have been left unturned in the struggle. The interstate commerce commission would have been first asked to declare the proposed advance in freight rates unreasonable, and after the commission had completed its work some way no doubt would have been found to carry a test case into the courts under the anti-trust act.

While the shippers would have contested the matter with the carriers, after all the real party that would have been harmed by an advance in rates would have consisted of consumers, who are never organized, never in fighting trim. And yet it is the consumer who would pay any increase in rates. The consumer pays everything. He pays all rates and all charges, but he does not appear in court, for he is a docile, unorganized creature, who never puts up a fight.

The railroads cannot, as the tariff stands, buy materials cheaper, and they cannot cut wages freely, and if dividends are to be maintained on watered securities an increase in freight rates seemed to be the only remedy in sight. The consumer would thus have been caught again in a trap, and he would have had small redress in a country that pays small respect to the wrongs of the plain but unorganized citizen.

But, fortunately, the railroads have abandoned all attempts to secure an increase in rates, to take effect July 1 or at any other near-at-hand time. Business conditions are improving; the harvesters are hastening to fields full of fine crops, and the railroads no doubt prefer to await new business than to provoke at this time a war all along the line because of a concerted effort on their part to raise rates, thereby violating the terms of the anti-trust act. For common action by the railroads in the matter of rates would be a plain violation of the spirit of the Sherman act.

Add to City's Beauty

Birmingham is already distinguished for its natural beauty and for its beautiful homes and beautiful streets. Red mountain is in itself a thing of beauty and within the city limits are landscape effects of rare charm. But if the people will support Mayor Ward in the movement which he is starting for improving and beautifying all sections of Birmingham, the city will be made still more attractive as a place of residence. The Mayor desires the women to take the actual lead in this matter and organize societies for enhancing the appearance of such blocks especially as have been neglected.

Much has been done in an educational way to stimulate in the public a taste for the beautiful. But in order to give this work concrete form the Mayor suggests that a society with "the city beautiful" in view be organized in every block. Cleanliness and the disappearance of ugliness should be first in mind. After the back yards, as well as the front yards, are put in clean condition, then fences and sidewalks and trees and grass plots should receive attention.

In the more elegant sections the premises are kept in model condition all the year round and the lawns are marvels of beauty. With the organization of block societies, all Birmingham could be brought easily in line with "the city beautiful" idea. Such a movement would result at once in a spirit of emulation; and in carrying out the proposed scheme, the expense to the individual would be next to nothing. Let the block societies be formed.

If New York is to have the vice-presidency the Hon. Tom Cat Platt should not be overlooked.

Taft gained more votes in the Chicago recount than Hearst does in the New York tussle.

About Ben Adhem's name led all the rest, and so will Alabama's at the conventions.

Nearly all the federal southern officeholders will be seated as delegates at Chicago.

Mortgages on balloons are almost as untrustworthy as a crap game in Wall street.

The Hon. Hoke Smith is vacationing on the upper reaches of Salt creek.

The republicans say that all roads lead to Chicago these days.

The pure food law is rapidly weeding out harmful preservatives.

Little Senator Knox is lost in the shuffle at Chicago. He may win, however, second place, for knows all the heavy campaign contributors.

Leslie M. Shaw has given up his headquarters in Chicago. He is the only one of the allies who knows a collapse when he sees it.

John Hays Hammond stands charged with the wrecking of the Transvaal republic, but the public has forgotten that little incident.

Oklahoma is the only state whose name no battleship carries on the high seas, but Ok. is a new arrival, and she must wait a while.

E. V. Debs and Tom Watson think the interest taken in the Chicago and Denver conventions is uncalled-for and wholly unjustified.

General Woodford carried to Chicago the Hughes boom carefully wrapped in a bit of tissue paper tagged with a rain check.

No English sovereign had set foot on Russian soil until King Edward went there with no fears of bombs before his eyes.

A republican convention would not feel right and natural if there were no contesting color-line delegations at the door.

The average distinguished delegate as he arrives in Chicago does not create an altogether favorable impression.

On account of the arrival of southern delegates Prince Albert coats have become an everyday sight in Chicago.

Taft and Hitchcock and Vorys are training the party elephant to be obedient and to sit up when spoken to.

All the allies will get well be a plank in the platform, and they will have to stand on that or go afoot.

Frank Hitchcock is very nearly the party boss at this writing. He looms large on the Taft horizon.

GROWTH OF BLACKMAIL.

From the Washington Post.
Raymond Hitchcock, the actor, has been acquitted of a fearful charge, after a fair trial. He was once before in jeopardy, but the case against him collapsed upon the discovery that one of his accusers, a young girl, was guilty of the grossest perjury. In the trial just ended the testimony of his accusers was shown to be false as to dates and places, and the probability is strong that their whole story was a tissue of falsehoods, inspired by cunning rascals who sought to blackmail the actor.

The police of every large city are familiar with the origin of such charges as that placed against Raymond Hitchcock. All that is required is a conspiracy between a blackmailer and one of the vile young girls that are only too numerous in the slums. The readiness of the public to believe a story told by a woman is a powerful factor in aiding the black-mailers. Many a man of perfectly correct habits has been blackmailed because of his fear of public opinion. He has paid money for silence rather than face the questioning glances of the public. It is to the credit of Actor Hitchcock that he had the moral courage to fight rather than submit to blackmail.

The increase in this class of crimes may be due in part to the changed status of women in American life. They are in direct competition with men in business. Some of them are thrown upon their own resources at a tender age. Too many of them fall by the wayside, yielding to temptation which promises to bring them a living. It is to the credit of the sex that they are usually honest in positions of trust, but at the same time it is no longer unusual to read of defaulting women cashiers. Women clerks are known to play the races and otherwise tempt fate. The longer they live the life of men the more they tend to adopt business vices as well as virtues. The time has passed when it was safe to accept a check signed with a woman's name, merely because of the universal belief in women's honesty. Women have placed themselves on a fighting plane with men, and they must be judged by the same standards. Deplorable as the facts are, they must be accepted. The Hitchcock case proves that young and innocent-looking girls can join in as black a conspiracy as any hardened criminal, and can do any thief.

The moral of the Hitchcock case to responsible men is to be on the lookout against any situation which might have even the appearance of evil, and to boldly expose would-be blackmailers, whatever their age or sex.

EVE'S EPIGRAMS.

Rose MacRae in New York Telegram.
The wise woman knows when not to be witty.

They who fish in ponds need no life preservers.

Diligence hath a daughter that men call Good Luck.

Lots that pass for patience is only perturbed laziness.

Of course the June bride is star of the summer show.

Plots are all to an author that lots are to a real estate man.

Few of us see the point to a joke that is sharpened at our expense.

Life gives her best gifts not to the deserving, but to the demanding.

People who blow their own horns need not worry about getting any echoes ready.

The stars in their courses laugh at mortals who try to run counter to their fate.

The average theatrical star has an idea that she can cry for the moon and get it.

A girl can forgive a man for everything but for forgiving her for not trying to please him.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

From the New York Press.

IN HOTEL LOBBIES

A Long Belt.

"I have just closed a contract with the Birmingham Railway, Light and Power company for one of the largest belts made," said S. E. Clark of the Ohio Rubber company.

"It will be 30 inches wide, 425 feet long and will weigh 500 pounds, and the cost will be about \$150. It will convey power from the engines to the dynamos used for lighting and street car service."

"This belt is made in sections of fibre, which are joined by hydraulics, and the rubber is put on by the same process applied differently. The belt will last a long time, and will supply a lot of 'juice,' as the street car men call the current."

"The Immortal 600."

"Many of the younger generation and some of the older inquired for the meaning of the 'Immortal Six Hundred' banner carried in the parade," said a veteran.

"These are the survivors of the 600 prisoners at Sullivan's Island, who were exposed to the fire of the Union of the comrades in an effort to force them to take the oath of allegiance to the Union. Of the 600 and odd only 18 yielded. They were fed on rotten meat for 45 days and ate rats and several cats. They were sorry they ate the cats because they found it harder to catch the rats themselves. They were divided up and were exposed to the fire of the guns of Sumter and other forts, but remained steadfast."

Praise For Telephone Girls.

"In the general feeling of felicitation that pervades Birmingham when praise is being bestowed so generously, I wish to say something of the part 'Miss Electricity' took in the very successful reunion," said a man actively engaged in the work of the greatest week Birmingham ever had.

"Notwithstanding that the force was taxed to the point of extreme endurance at a very trying task, the telephone girl did her part to add to the fame of the city. I had occasion to use the phone a great deal—often with a series of calls following one on the other—and yet I always was promptly and courteously responded to. I hear it from hotels and individuals that the service was the very best, and the telephone system of Birmingham will be a mark for others to be pointed to when not so satisfactory."

Suggests Token of Appreciation.

"They came, they saw, and they conquered them with kindness," said H. K. White, in speaking of the reunion. "I have lived here 20 years and can testify that the past few days have been the best and most beautiful of Birmingham's young life. The community rose to the height of hospitality unselfish and sentiment sublime. The beauty and the chivalry of the south were here in the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy, and to these we exemplified hospitality. The veterans who followed Lee, Jackson, Johnston, Gordon and others of the immortals, were here, and to these we exemplified the sublime sentiment of reverence for heroism and devotion to duty. Everything and everybody worked together in harmony. The weather was made to order. Everybody was orderly, and the entire population ceased work, dressed up, kept open house and entertained our 60,000 visitors for three full days and nights. During all that time there were less than two dozen arrests, and so far as I know there was not a drunken person seen. Altogether the reunion at Birmingham will be in years to come one of the most beautiful pictures that will hang on memory's wall."

"I think some public token in the way of a public reception, and personal gifts or medals, should be tendered to those enterprising citizens of Birmingham who served actively on the various committees which accomplished the unparalleled success of the reunion. Such a public reception should be given soon. The Hippodrome would be a good place. I am sure our appreciative public would quickly respond with contributions to meet the expense of such a reception. Let us speak approving words while our public-spirited friends are living, rather than make all our contributions to monuments for them after they are dead."

Gray Returns From Fishing Trip.

Lieutenant Governor H. B. Gray returned to Birmingham yesterday from Decatur. The lieutenant governor spent the latter part of the week with some friends from Birmingham and Decatur on a fishing trip up along the locks about Muscle Shoals.

"I was amazed at the extent of the government work up there on the Tennessee river," said Mr. Gray. "Millions of dollars have been spent and I believe there are few people in the lower sections of Alabama who appreciate the magnitude of the undertaking. The Tennessee river is a great asset to the Alabama. Some of us will see the tremendous water power along the shoals being utilized in a commercial way. My trip has been a great pleasure as well as a revelation to me."

Commendation For Wilzin.

The reunion executive committee has passed the following resolution commendatory of the work of J. M. Wilzin, chairman of the committee:

"Whereas, We, his co-workers on the executive committee, feel that the official records of this committee would be incomplete if they did not bear testimony to the splendid work of the chairman, Mr. J. M. Wilzin;

"Therefore, be it Resolved, That we, knowing fully the facts and speaking for the citizens of Birmingham, tender to him the thanks and appreciation of this community for his unselfish, untiring and masterful planning and executing that has made possible the successful entertaining of the eighteenth reunion, United Confederate Veterans at Birmingham, June 9, 10 and 11, 1908.

"And, Whereas, business arrangements have necessitated the removal of Mr. Wilzin to another city, we wish to express to him for ourselves and the citizens of Birmingham our deep regret that our city is thus to lose in future the benefit of his broadminded and intelligent co-operation; and our wish that success and happiness will attend him in his new home.

"Be it further resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the records of this committee and a copy signed by the members of the committee be delivered to Mr. Wilzin."

Automobile Accident.

"I saw an automobile as it ran into a tree in my neighborhood today," said a man who lives on Eleventh avenue and Sixteenth street last night, "and the accident, which was the result of

'pranking,' came near being serious. The chauffeur and others in the automobile seemed bent on having fun; otherwise the tree, I think, would have been spared. Had it not been for the tree the automobile would have run into the coping of the sidewalk and there might then have been a bad accident. At it was somebody may have to pay damages."

"This leads me to remark that there is entirely too much carelessness and too much daring on the part of chauffeurs. I do not believe in making the laws too rigid. But from the way some of the 'high speeders' proceed on thoroughfares, it is time for the public to rise up and protest. Even the most expert and vigilant of chauffeurs should keep down their speed on all frequented streets inside the city limits."

BRIEFS FROM ABROAD.

From the Wall Street Journal.

The number of families in France is estimated at 11,315,000, of which 1,804,720 have no children.

Manchuria already receives 1000 cable messages a day from Japan. The doubling of the cables is probable.

Sira-ul-Lillah-wad-din-Ameer-Habib-Ulla-Kahn, Ameer of Afghanistan, has to have his name vested to pull it all at once.

According to the report of the geological survey of British India the production of coal in that country in 1907 was \$763,250 tons.

There is a successful fox farm on Prince Edward Island. Skins in their green condition are valued at from \$200 to \$250 each, one or two having been sold for \$450.

A leading Swiss scientist declared that the Roentgen rays can be so applied that white horses become black. He is now experimenting on old gentlemen's beards.

Zinc coffins are largely used in Vienna. The more expensive ones are made of copper, and cost as much as \$2500, while a bronze and copper coffin recently made for a Russian archduke cost over \$5000.

New Zealand is described by its inhabitants as the "happiest country in the world." It is now a dominion. Some of the pretty names given to it by New Zealanders are "The Fortunate Isles," "The Wonderland of the Pacific," "All Lands in One" and "The Star of the South."

When Lord Cromer described the "immense wealth" of Egypt in repeated reports, the deposits of oil on the Red Sea and the gold mines east of Luxor and Assuan, with stories of rich veins farther south, were used in Europe to float stocks and maintain prices of all sorts of securities. But 20 years ago the state department published a report by the late Hon. John C. Carlisle, in which he treated the pretensions of Gebel Zeit to Rival Batoom, or Oil City, as mere stock-jobbing operations, and flouted the idea that practical wells could even be sunk. "Petroleum Hill" is ancient of name; and there is an extant map of an Egyptian gold mine worked in A. D. 1200; but the companies formed to resume operations have been uniformly unsuccessful as to dividends. At the annual meeting of the Nile Valley (new) company in London a few days ago, the chairman, R. J. Price, said the mines were not worked at a good profit. During the two years of the company's existence \$105,000 worth of gold was sent away, while at the mine alone the expenditures were \$175,000, the company thus paying 30 shillings sterling for each £1 of gold produced. The chairman hopefully remarked that, however, this was "one of the mines where you could never tell what was going to happen next." And the stockholders approved the report and resolved to go ahead with reconstruction of the property.

EATING IN FICTION.

From the Indianapolis Star.

An English writer notes that eating, as a necessary and important part of social life, has lost its place in fiction. What he says is true, and it is equally true of dress as an essential part of the description of the personages of the tale. Modern novelists, for example, seldom describe the heroine's garb, leaving that to the reader's fancy or to the pencil of the illustrator. Omission of such a description either by pen or brush is not unwise, since feminine fashions change so rapidly that too accurate portrayals serve to classify the book as belonging to a fixed period.

The matter of eating, however, is different. To eat in company is more a part of social life among rich and poor than ever before. Every year dining is becoming more of a fine art and cookery has advanced to a profession. Mr. Micawber, who broiled bacon and toasted bread at his broken grate and entertained his friends with joyful hospitality, has his counterpart in these days in the man who proudly displays his mastery of the chafing dish. Women flock to cooking schools, and a new and savory dish excites as much interest among them as ever it could have done among those famous cooks, their grandmothers.

Why this art does not figure more in fiction is not clear. People die in novels, but never by chance do readers know what is served to them or how they enjoy it. There are, of course, such exceptions as Upton Sinclair's fantastic tale in which members of the 400 indulge in a glutinous "feed," but this is not to be counted. Eating as one of the simple and universal pleasures of life is not recognized by fiction writers. Do they fancy that such portrayals are beneath their art or that the public prefers more aesthetic themes? If so, they are wrong. Dickens knew how much the social meal enhanced the joy of living in his day, both in high circles and low, and conditions in this respect are not different now.

A little recognition of the fact that a dinner is something beyond an interchange of wit, or an hour of dull dialogue, would not lower the standard of any novelist.

PLACATING ROOSEVELT.

From the Springfield Republican.

There is a good story told by one of the special correspondents in Chicago to illustrate the plight of those who have opposed the nomination of Secretary Taft. It is one that Private John Allen once told on Gen. Josiah Patterson of Tennessee. General Patterson commanded the rear guard of a defeated Confederate force which was in full retreat and being pressed hard by the victorious Union army. His men in the rear guard began to exchange volleys with the oncoming foe. "Don't shoot at them," shouted General Patterson in great excitement. "It only makes them mad." The important matter in a good many republican quarters just now is to keep the man in the White House good natured.

ITALIANS IN AMERICA

From the Boston Globe.

So many unreliable statements have been made against the Italians in America as a class, it is pleasant to have such an eminent authority as Baron Planches, the Italian ambassador to the United States, enlighten the public concerning the position in our population of the members of this great industrial race who have been coming to our shores for many years.

Immigrants are still leaving Italy for America, but as they eventually make good citizens and add to the farming wealth of the country they are considered a desirable addition to the population by all the official authorities who have gathered data concerning the lives they lead, the work they perform and their ambition to remain here and accumulate property. Our national bureau of labor speaks in the most complimentary terms of the Italians, asserting that they are industrious, well behaved, progressive and generally peaceable.

The distribution of this race in this country is explained by Baron Planches to a New York Times interviewer. According to his data there are about 1,500,000 Italians in the United States, many of whom were born here. Most of them live in the Atlantic coast states. New York has 500,000, Boston from 50,000 to 60,000, Philadelphia 20,000, while in such cities as Newark, Hoboken, Elizabeth and in towns of New England there are on an average from 1200 to 15,000. In Chicago there are 100,000. Detroit has 12,000. Sixty thousand are living prosperously in California. In New Orleans and vicinity there are 25,000.

At first the Italian immigrants were Genoese, Piedmontese and Tuscans. During the last 15 years most of them are from southern Italy, and include Sicilians, Calabrians, pullans, etc. Practically 50 per cent of the immigrants are agricultural laborers. In answer to the common query, why more of these last do not seek American farm life, the ambassador says:

"It should be understood that the great mass of our southern people at home, while engaged in agricultural pursuits,

are congregated in towns. They have small love for the country as a place of residence. Landowners, farmers and most of the laborers dwell together in their boroughs or hamlets, and the peasants often have especially in Sicily—a journey of several miles in order to reach the fields where they work. Then they are ignorant of farming conditions in America. Moreover, when they arrive they usually seek out their friends and through them obtain employment. In New York they find work easily at good wages without going further."

As far as possible the Italian officials here are doing all they can to safeguard the newcomers from the evils which threaten the unsuspecting on arrival in a new country. They guard them from going to any unhealthy country or to one where there is no work. On the other side, the government officials look after the health of the Italian passengers, aid them in many ways and see that agents land them at their proper destination in America. On this side the federal government also looks faithfully after their interests. A successful effort is now being made to have these immigrants settle in many of the southern and southwestern states to engage in farming.

As regards a much-talked-of secret society, Baron Planches is quoted as saying:

"The Black Hand society is by no means a powerful organization, as is imagined in some quarters. It seems to have originated in Sicily, and whenever one or two Sicilians desire to levy blackmail they write a letter and place upon it the insignia of the Black Hand. The criminals of other countries have taken advantage of the discredit which this practice has thrown upon Italians generally and use the insignia in their communications, thus evading suspicion. You may be certain there is no large and powerful society. There are small groups of swindlers who should be caught and punished. A society known as the White Hand has just been formed in Chicago. It comprises Sicilians, and its purpose is to hunt down relentlessly all persons engaged in Black Hand work."

SOME HUMAN MONSTERS

From Answers.

On the evening of May 17, 1901, the steamer Prins Carl left the Swedish town of Arboga for Stockholm. About 12 o'clock four gentlemen, who were sitting playing cards in the smoking room, heard a sound of shots, and a man dashed in, pale and breathless, crying, "There's a massacre aboard!"

They started up, but immediately some one slammed the door from outside and locked it. Next moment a pistol was forced through the window-pane, a shot crashed out, and one man fell dead.

The other three burst open the door and rushed out. The pistol cracked again, and the first man, Lindqvist by name, staggered back with a bullet wound in the head. He pulled himself together and rushed after the assassin, who fled to the steering room, and shouted down the speaking tube to the engineer: "Full speed ahead!" But the engineer was suspicious and put the engine astern.

The murderer rushed below, but the engineer had barricaded himself in his cabin, and the man ran on deck again, dropped into the ship's boat, which was towing astern and escaped.

It was found that he had killed seven people, including the captain, and wounded five more.

He was chased and arrested next day, after a violent struggle, in which he nearly killed a policeman. He was found to be a man named Nordlund, who had recently suffered imprisonment for incendiarism. He coolly confessed his murders, and declared that he had not been in the least touched by his victims' piteous appeals for mercy.

He was sentenced to death, but even now the tale of the sea fiend's iniquities was not complete. He broke a bedstead in his cell and ran amuck among his warders, killing one and maiming another.

The world is well rid of such monsters 'n human form, and the Americans will breathe more easily when they hear definitely that the "farm siren"—as she is called—Mrs. Gunness, is dead.

No country is free from such night-mare creatures, twisted natures apparently born without the slightest respect for human life. Some, indeed, seem actually to take a horrible delight in the destruction of their fellow creatures. Such a one was Alfred Knapp, executed at Hamilton, Ohio, in August, 1903, for the murder of his wife and four other women. After his conviction, and when he saw that no hope of life remained, he coolly admitted that he had been a stranger for years, pouncing on little children, throttling them to death, and hiding their bodies.

The "Human Mole" was a German degenerate, whose horrible crimes shocked only Germany, but the whole world. Johann Bobbe was his name. Though thin and weak looking, his hands and arms were abnormally developed and his finger nails were simply claws. Without any other tools than his hands he could burrow into the solid earth.

He had a little tobacco shop in a back street in Berlin and here he excavated a deep pit under the floor and arranged a trap door over it